

Phylum Encyclopedia Article

Phylum

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Phylum

Phylum is a taxon or group within the hierarchical system of taxonomy located between Kingdom and Class. Since this is such a broad inclusion, members of the same phylum are quite diverse and generally have simple similarities. It is also presumed that they have a common evolutionary ancestry. Examples of phyla in the Kingdom Animalia include Porifera (sponges), Cnidaria (jellyfish and sea anemones), Platyhelminthes (flatworms), Nematoda (roundworms), Arthropoda (insects, crabs, etc.), Mollusca (snails, clams, octopi, etc.), Echinodermata (sea stars, sea urchins, etc.), and Chordata (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals). Within the Kingdom Plantae, the term Division is generally substituted for Phylum. Examples of Divisions include Coniferophyta (cone-bearing plants such as pine trees) and Magnoliophyta (flowering plants).